



## **2009 SCTP SEASON INFORMATION**

### **2009 SEASON**

It is the aim of the Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation (SSSF) to get the 2009 season underway and conducted in as smooth a fashion as possible, with as little fuss as possible. In fact, for some teams the 2009 season has already started. Despite the fact that the Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation (SSSF) does not officially take over the operation of the program until January 01, 2009 (as agreed upon in a MOU with the National Shooting Sports Foundation), many SCTP Coaches and State Coordinators (formerly State Directors) have expressed the need for information NOW about the program specifics for the upcoming 2009 season.

### **INSURANCE**

For those teams now active, the NSSF's insurance coverage for volunteers is in effect until the official transfer date of January 01, 2009. After that, volunteers will be covered by a new insurance policy as soon as they are registered for the 2009 season.

### **CHANGES**

Several questions have been received regarding changes in the program. There are very few changes for the 2009 season. Each change came either from the suggestions of those active in the program or as the result of program vulnerabilities identified by an internal audit of the program's existing policies and procedures. Providing simpler, more streamlined administrative processes and a greater level of safety and security for program participants is the goal.

#### **1. Divisions and Categories**

There are no changes in either the divisions or categories. Please see the FAST FACTS sheet at the end of this document for a list of the SCTP Divisions and Categories.

The reason divisions are based upon grade level, rather than age, is to keep scholastic peer groups intact, thus paralleling other school-based athletic programs. Several states currently have school teams in the SCTP with some schools granting athletic letters to SCTP athletes. A program goal for SSSF is to have the SCTP accepted as a part of the school curriculum similar to what the National Archery in Schools Program (NASP) has become.

#### **2. Rules**

There will be few rule changes from those in place in 2008. We have added a "**Bump Up**" provision in the rules that will be a benefit to the smaller teams that have had a hard time making up competitive squads composed of athletes in the same Division and Category. During the 2008 season, teams that had enough

registered athletes to make a squad, but did not have the necessary number for a specific Division, were prevented from participating in the Sctp State and National Championships.

The SSSF is committed to focusing on inclusion rather than exclusion. For the 2009 season, Head Coaches may ask their State Coordinator (formerly called State Director) for approval to move or “bump up” an athlete in a lower division to a higher division in order to complete a competitive squad. Each situation must be reviewed and approved by the State Coordinator. This decision, once approved, is irrevocable; the athlete must stay in the higher division for the remainder of the season.

The ***Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation’s Sctp OFFICIAL HANDBOOK – 2009*** will be published and available for online viewing on the Web site – [www.sssfonline.org](http://www.sssfonline.org) – NLT January 01, 2009.

### **3. Communication Procedures**

Due to virtually universal access to the internet and the REALISTIC NEEDS IMPOSED ON US BY OUR SMALL BUDGET AND LIMITED STAFF, the electronic medium will be used for communicating information to program participants through e-mail and the Web site. This will include registration procedures, access to the initial coach course, posting of the 2009 Handbook, the posting of events, scores, and update notices.

### **4. Registration Procedures**

Team registration will be very similar to how it was done for the 2008 season. The new Web site ([www.sssfonline.org](http://www.sssfonline.org)) is currently under construction and will be operational and ready to accept team registrations beginning January 01, 2009, when the SSSF officially takes control of the Sctp.

**NO TEAM Registration Fee.** There will be no TEAM Registration Fee.

**Athletes.** Membership fee for the 2009 season is **\$15.00** per athlete. Each registered athlete will be given a Member ID number on a Membership Card that can be downloaded and printed. This number will not change from season to season. The Head Coach submits the membership fee for each athlete when registering the team.

**Adults.** The SSSF’s first and foremost responsibility is to the young athletes participating in the Sctp. Their safety, protection, and welfare are paramount. It is a reality in today’s world, in order to be able to protect the program and its participants, background checks are necessary.

Every adult working directly with Sctp athletes must be registered with the SSSF. State Coordinators, Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and other adults working directly with athletes must submit a 2009 Sctp Registration Form and

pay a registration fee of **\$25.00**. These forms will be available online December 17<sup>th</sup>. To request forms earlier, please email SSSF Headquarters at S3F@comcast.net.

The registration fee covers the following package:

- ☒ - **Volunteer Liability Insurance Coverage**
- ☒ - **“Double-Goal Coach” Course**
- ☒ - **Background Check**

In order for the SSSF to secure the Volunteer Liability Insurance Coverage, the insurance underwriter requires a background check and coach training. The SSSF is committed to protecting its volunteers and willingly accepts that responsibility by subsidizing the cost of this package (the Double-Goal Coach Course alone costs \$25.00).

### **5. Training Requirements**

**Current Requirements.** All adults working directly with athletes must satisfactorily complete the online “Double-Goal Coach” Certification Course. This is an online course developed by the Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA) at Stanford University. The SSSF is a National Partner with PCA. The Little League and the American Youth Soccer Organization are also PCA National Partners.

This course is a self-paced course that requires no more than 1.5 to 2 hours of time. There is a simple 20-question “open book” test at the end of the course. Hitting the back button allows the material to be reviewed before answering each question. Training, required by the insurance underwriter, is also an essential element for complying with the Volunteer Protection Act of 1997.

**Future Requirements.** Head Coaches will need to obtain formal certification as a coach or instructor in a shotgun discipline by the end of the 2010 season.

Accepted courses are:

- USAS/NRA/CMP Shotgun Coach Certification
- NRA/ATA Trap Coach Certification
- NSCA Certified Instructor (Levels I, II, and III)
- NSSA Certified Instructor (Levels I, II, and III)
- State Wildlife Agency Shotgun Coach Certification

There will be additional certification courses developed over the next year that will also satisfy this requirement.

### **6. SCTP NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**Dates.** The SCTP National Championships for trap, skeet, and sporting clays will be conducted this year at the World Shooting and Recreation Complex (WSRC)

in Sparta, Illinois. As for the dates, it is up in the air. We are now in talks with the ATA and the facility at Sparta to finalize the exact dates, but we expect the SCTP event will be the last week of July or the first week of August.

The dates for the event will be announced as soon as they are nailed down and no later than January 1, 2009. Whatever the dates, the WSRC has assured the SSSF that the SCTP National Championships will be accommodated at the Complex and the staff will do whatever necessary to make the championships a positive experience.

**Schedule.** The disciplines of skeet, trap, and sporting clays will be conducted over the course of three days, one discipline per day. There will NOT be a dead day in the schedule like there was last year.

**New Award.** Teams are encouraged to enter squads in all three disciplines. First, second, and third place team trophies will be awarded to the top three teams with the high overall scores for the three disciplines. A special commemorative pin will be awarded to each individual shooting all three disciplines. This is an effort to get more of our athletes to learn about all the games. We want trap shooters to be exposed to skeet and sporting clays and vice versa.

#### **CONTACT SSSF**

The above information addresses the majority of the questions received by the SSSF. If you have a question or concern that is not addressed, please don't hesitate to contact us.

We want to hear from you. That is the intent of the statement, "...by turning the way things have been done upside down," in the letter that was recently sent to SCTP Coaches and State Coordinators. Those of you with your "boots on the ground" working with the SSSF's SCTP have the best perspective on what the program needs.

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